

ABSTRACT

A method and a system for automatically finding one or more answers to a natural language question in a computer stored natural language text database is disclosed. The natural language text database has been analyzed with respect to syntactic functions of constituents, lexical meaning of word tokens and clause boundaries, and the natural language question comprises a question clause. A computer readable representation of the question clause is analyzed with respect to syntactic functions of its constituents and the lexical meaning of its word tokens. In response to the analysis a set of conditions for a clause in the natural language text database to constitute an answer to the question clause is defined. The conditions relate to the syntactic functions of constituents and the lexical meaning of word tokens in the clause. Furthermore, clauses that satisfy said conditions are identified in the natural language text database, and answers to the question clause is returned by means of the identified clauses that matches the conditions.